REQUEST THAT THE GENERIC NAME "NOTROPIS" RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES, ORDER CYPRINIDA, FAMILY CYPRINIDAE) BE PLACED ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY": QUESTION OF POSSIBLE USE OF THE COMMISSION'S PLENARY POWERS TO DETERMINE THE GENDER OF THIS GENERIC NAME

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)663)

The generic name *Notropis* was introduced by Rafinesque (1818, *Amer. Month. Mag. and Critical Review*, **2** : 204), with *N. atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818 (: 204) from Lake Erie as its type species (by monotypy). As indicated by Rafinesque, the name was suggested by the keeled or carinated back (probably an artifact resulting from improper preservation). Although feminine by derivation, the word *Notropis* was treated as masculine by all authors known to us from 1818 until 1951. Recently, Hubbs (1951, *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich.*, **530** : 14) has noted that *Notropis* is classically feminine, and he accordingly altered a few adjectival trivial names to agree in gender with the generic name. This procedure conforms with the requirements of the Code.

2. *Notropis* is known to include some 250 specific names representing well in excess of 100 valid species, making it the largest genus of North American freshwater fishes. In addition to being large, the genus includes many of the most abundant and widespread species on the continent, some of them the subjects of a sizeable non-taxonomic literature. A change necessitating correction of all adjectival specific names (numbering half of the specific names in the genus) would result in misunderstanding and confusion for years, especially by students, editors, and biologists who are not taxonomic ichthyologists. Currently, American ichthyologists are divided in their opinion on the problem : some prefer to continue to treat *Notropis* as masculine ; others wish to be classically correct and to alter the gender of all the adjectival specific names concerned. However, we believe all investigators would welcome an unalterable answer to the problem.

3. Therefore, we request (1) that *Notropis* Rafinesque, 1818, be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (type species, by monotypy : *Notropis atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818), (2) that the specific name *atherinoides* Rafinesque, 1818, as published in the combination *Notropis atherinoides*, be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, and (3) that the gender of *Notropis* be designated by the Commission.

4. Of the New World ichthyologists who have read this petition all are in agreement with the first two points.

5. The following New World ichthyologists prefer that the Commission exercise its Plenary Powers and rule that the generic name *Notropis* be treated as a masculine word :—

José Alvarez, Mexico
Reeve M. Bailey
William C. Beckman
William Beebe
Kelshaw Bonham
C. M. Breder, Jr.
Martin R. Brittan
C. J. D. Brown
Kenneth D. Carlander
Wilbert M. Chapman
Gerald P. Cooper
Frank B. Cross
Fernando de Buen, Uruguay
Martin del Campo, Mexico
Jack S. Dendy
J. R. Dymond, Canada
R. W. Eschmeyer
W. Harry Everhart
Agustin Fernandez-Yepez, Venezuela
Alcides Lourenço Gomes, Brazil
Myron Gordon
William A. Gosline
John R. Greeley
C. Willard Greene
Marion Grey
Gordon Gunter
Robert W. Harrington, Jr.
Earl S. Herald
Clark Hubbs
Robert F. Inger
Raymond E. Johnson
William J. Koster
Ernest A. Lachner
Karl F. Lagler
Francesca R. LaMonte
Vianney Legendre, Canada
William M. McLane
Romeo Mansueti
John C. Marr
Nelson Marshall
Robert Rush Miller
George A. Moore
George S. Myers
John T. Nichols
A. E. Parr
Edward C. Raney

W. E. Ricker, Canada
Luis Revé Rivas
Leonard P. Schultz
Donald C. Scott
W. B. Scott, Canada
William F. Sigler
James R. Simon
Royal D. Suttkus
John Tee-Van
Milton B. Trautman
Vadim D. Vladykov, Canada
George F. Weisel
Norman J. Wilimovsky
Loren P. Woods

6. The following American ichthyologists prefer that the Commission rule that the name *Notropis* be treated as being of the feminine gender :—

W. I. Follett
Harry W. Freeman
David G. Frey
Shelby D. Gerking
Carl L. Hubbs
Frank T. Knapp
William Ralph Taylor

OBJECTION TO THE BAILEY/MILLER PROPOSAL THAT THE GENERIC NAME "NOTROPIS" RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES) SHOULD BE TREATED AS BEING OF THE MASCULINE GENDER AND COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT THIS NAME BE ACCEPTED AS BEING OF THE FEMININE GENDER

By CARL L. HUBBS
(*Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, U.S.A.*)
and
W. I. FOLLETT
(*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)663)

(Letter dated 3rd August 1953)

For the purpose of identification, we state that the first of the present applicants is the ichthyologist referred to by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey in his letter of 1st December 1949 (1953, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **10** : 228), where he states that " one of my distinguished colleagues, who is in a purist frame of mind, proposed to revert to the classical feminine for *Notropis* " Rafinesque, 1818.